



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Transmitted via Email

August 7, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 180-8-9

SUBJECT: CPA – ASSESSMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (CNMP)
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Purpose. To solicit Area-level assessments and suggestions for improving policy and procedures in developing and implementing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

Action Required By: August 30, 2008

Background. In 2007, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) initiated an Oversight and Evaluation (O&E) Review to evaluate the quality and consistency of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs), both in development and implementation. Review findings of the study show that a majority of CNMPs are not meeting criteria, and that producers are not using them. The O&E Review recommendations included:

- a) Reduce the complexity of the CNMP by revising policy and guidance documents related to planning, installation, and reporting;
- b) Promote continued commitment to update and support CNMP software that will make CNMPs more useful to producers and easier for planners to use;
- c) Support internal and external planners by developing and implementing a “Train-the-Trainer” plan; and
- d) Establish a plan to market the CNMP concept to internal and external customers.

In answer to the O&E Review NRCS developed a CNMP Management Action Plan (MAP), signed by Chief Lancaster on May 13, 2008, to address these recommendations. As part of the MAP, the Animal Husbandry and Clean Water Division (AHCWD) needs to assess problems the States are having with policy and procedures in developing and implementing CNMPs.

Explanation. State Conservationists are to assist in assessing the problems with developing and implementing CNMPs, and submit suggestions for making CNMPs more usable by producers, using the attached format which addresses the following areas: problems both producers and staff are having in dealing with CNMPs; existing barriers to writing and implementing CNMPs; what can be done to make the effort of writing CNMPs easier and more productive; existing problems with certification of individuals to develop CNMPs; whether there are sufficient opportunities for training of staff to write CNMPs; and whether there are ways to streamline the process of CNMP development and implementation.



Please complete the attached form and send it to Jeff St. Ores, by e-mail. Please direct questions to John Brach at (651) 602-7880 or Jeff St. Ores (651) 602-7869.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AO